

MONTREAL COMPANY LOCATION HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Montreal  
Iron  
Wisconsin

HALS WI-9  
WI-9

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

### MONTREAL COMPANY LOCATION HISTORIC DISTRICT

HALS NO. WI-9

Location: Montreal, Iron County, Wisconsin  
Lat: 46.432888 Long: -90.245132

Significance: The district has been termed a nationally significant example of industrial community planning. It is part of the Gogebic Iron Range, one of five iron ore districts that comprise the Lake Superior mining region. Montreal's residences reflect the progression of housing policies that were implemented from the mid-1800s onwards, whereas the landscape recommendations of the town planner and landscape architect Albert D. Taylor were commissioned by the Oglebay-Norton Mining Company in 1924.

History: The historic district contains just under 150 structures, and comprises three interrelated areas: a company "location" (company houses and community buildings), the remnants of a few industrial buildings, and the three-acre Calvi Reserve. The Reserve, which included a store and some homes when it emerged during the late nineteenth century, was independent of any mining company sponsorship. In 1907 the first townsite, organized in a traditional rectangular pattern, was platted by the Oglebay-Norton Mining Co. During the early 1920s, the company hired landscape architect Albert Taylor to design a new addition with gently curvilinear streets that conformed to the terrain. Only a portion of Taylor's addition was carried out, but the original townsite was improved by following his extensive landscape recommendations -- especially the addition of trees, shrubs, and flowers -- all of which were implemented by the mining company. The sizes and styles of the modest vernacular houses still reveal the former differentiation within the workforce hierarchy, but most of the industrial buildings once situated by the mine shafts are either in very poor condition or have been torn down.

The Gogebic Range, which shipped its first iron ore in 1884, was an important source of high-grade ore with low phosphorus content; by 1920, Oglebay-Norton was the foremost producer in the area. To improve living conditions for immigrant miners, the company hired Albert Taylor who designed an addition to the original town, and included nurseries that provided plants for the community. The mine continued in production until 1962, after which time the homes were sold by the company.

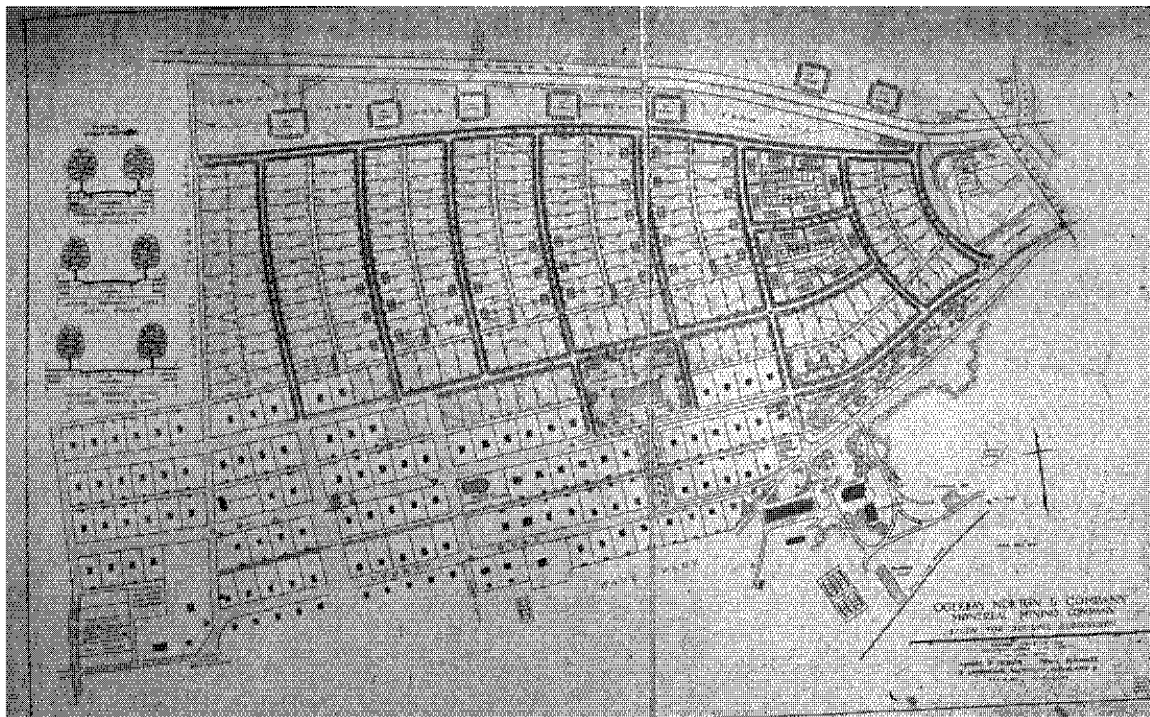
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Taylor, Albert D. "Improvements Report on the Montreal Mining Company  
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Historian: Arnold Alanen and Lee Somerville, January 10, 2007  
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Original plat map of Montreal with townsite expansion and landscape recommendations by Albert Taylor (Albert D. Taylor. "Improvements Report on the Montreal Mining Company Properties in the Ironwood District, Michigan." Cleveland: Office of A. D. Taylor. (report on file in the Iron County Historical Society, Hurley, Wisconsin)).



Street scene showing mining company bungalows and mature vegetation, Montreal, Wisconsin (Arnold Alanen, 1995).